

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6687
INFO LRNHMRJ/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3831

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4857

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, JA, UR
SUBJECT: JAPAN-SOVIET FISHING NEGOTIATIONS AND US/JAPAN GIFA

REF: A) TOKYO 4392, B) STATE 071918

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MOFA PROBLEM USG MIGHT HAVE IN OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF US-JAPAN AGREEMENT SHOULD INTERIM JAPAN-USSR FISHERY AGREEMENT BE PASSED IN DIET BEFORE PASSAGE OF US-JAPAN LONG TERM AGREEMENT. MOFA UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM BUT, BECAUSE OF NEED FOR QUICK DIET APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS TO GET JAPANESE FISHERMEN BACK TO SEA, COULD NOT GIVE ASSURANCE OUR CONCERN WAS UNFOUNDED.

2. PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF B, REG FISHATT IN COURSE OF MEETING ON YELLOWFIN TUNA EXPORTS, VOICED SURPRISE TO OKUBO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, 2ND NORTH AMERICA DIVISION OF FON OFF, THAT JAPAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH LONG TERM AGREEMENT WITH USSR WITHOUT HAVING INTERIM AGREEMENT AND THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GAIN RAPID PASSAGE OF THIS AGREEMENT THROUGH THE DIET, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF STATEMENTS GOJ DEL HAD REPEATEDLY MADE IN US-JAPAN GIFA
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NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO OKUBO THAT IF DIET APPROVED SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT MUCH DELAY IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY IF US-JAPAN AGREEMENT NOT YET APPROVED.

3. ON APRIL 4 REG FISHATT REVIEWED WITH OKUBO USG CONCERN AS OUTLINED IN REF B. OKUBO SAID HE HAD INFORMED ASAO (DEP DIR GEN

AMERICAN AFFAIRS) OF EARLIER CONVERSATION AND THAT HE WOULD AGAIN INFORM APPROPRIATE MOFA OFFICIALS OF USG CONCERN. IN COURSE OF FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION, ASAO INFORMED POL COUNS IT WAS GOJ INTENTION TO SUBMIT US LONG-TERM AGREEMENT TO DIET CURRENTLY WITH ANY SOVIET AGREEMENT.

4. ON APRIL 5, PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE TO THESE DEMARCHES, ASAO AND TOGO (DIRECTOR SOVIET AFFAIRS) MET WITH EMBOFFS TO EXPLAIN BACKGROUND AND PRESENT STATUS OF JAPAN-USSR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. BROADER POLITICAL CONTEXT OF SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL, BUT FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE:

A) CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED, ONGOING FISHERY MEETINGS IN MOSCOW ARE TO NEGOTIATE INTERIM AGREEMENT TO COVER FISHING FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR. (WE HAD BEEN INFORMED EARLIER THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT RESULT IN A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT.) INTERIM AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, WILL CONTAIN ELEMENTS THAT WILL INFRINGE UPON RIGHTS OF JAPANESE CITIZENS AND THUS WILL REQUIRE DIET APPROVAL.

B. IT IS LIKELY THAT US-JAPAN LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WILL GO TO DIET AROUND MIDDLE OF MONTH. BECAUSE 16 TO 18 TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORWARDED TO DIET, FORECASTING WHEN DIET WILL ACT ON OUR AGREEMENT IS VERY DIFFICULT.

C) COMPLEXITY OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS IN MOSCOW, MAKES FORECASTING WHEN AGREEMENT MIGHT BE REACHED THERE ALSO VERY DIFFICULT. COMPELLING NEED FOR JAPAN TO GET ITS FISHERMEN BACK TO SEA AND HIGH LEVEL (CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA) OF REPRESENTATION NOW IN MOSCOW, SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT AGREEMENT COULD SOON BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REACHED. (APRIL 6 PRESS INDICATES AGREEMENT COULD COME AS SOON AS EARLY NEXT WEEK.) WHENEVER AGREEMENT IS REACHED, QUICK DIET ACTION IS ANTICIPATED.

5. WE AGAIN POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES USG MAY FACE AS OUTLINED IN REF B. WE NOTED THAT AS LONG AS AGREEMENT REQUIRES DIET APPROVAL, PROBLEM WE MAY HAVE EXISTS WHETHER AGREEMENT IS INTERIM OR LONG-TERM. ASAO ACKNOWLEDGED GOJ AWARE OF PROBLEM, BUT BECAUSE OF MANY UNCERTAINTIES OF ONGOING FISHERY TALKS AND NEED TO GET FISHERMEN BACK TO SEA HE WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ASSURANCE THAT OUR CONCERN WAS UNFOUNDED.

6. ASAO WISHES TO KNOW IF HIS UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT THAT USG WILL FORWARD US-JAPAN FISHERY AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS AFTER JAPAN HAS COMPLETED "INTERNAL PROCEDURES", INCLUDING DIET APPROVAL. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THIS IS CORRECT.
SHOESMITH

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